

PUGET SOUND



ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1973

## PSBA New Clippings



### The President's Desk: Grant Rauzi

Happy New Year to all PSBA members! Welcome to all visitors, guests, and first time readers – we hope you will continue to follow the news and activities of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association, and consider attending our meetings and events. Our 2010 event calendar includes many big favorites, starting with the Seattle Flower & Garden Show in February, followed by the Spring Show at the Japanese Garden in the Seattle Arboretum in May, the PSBA Auction to be held at Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters in June, an exhibit at the Aki Matsuri Festival in September, and Maple Viewing Festival in October. We are planning an exciting year with many opportunities to advance our education in the art and culture of bonsai!

Continued on page 2

- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at [www.psba.us](http://www.psba.us). Current and past newsletters are available on that site.
- Don't forget to look for PSBA's display at the Seattle Flower & Garden Show.
- Coming in February—our first meeting of the year. We meet at the Center for Urban Horticulture at 7 pm with the meeting beginning no later than 7:30 pm. This meeting is Monday, February 22nd.
- Remember—Dues for 2010 are due and may be paid at any meeting or by mailing them to the PSBA's post office box can be found at the top of this page.
- Don't miss Bonsai Northwest's annual pot and tool sale—see page 4 for details.
- Plan now to attend our annual bonsai auction to be held the first Saturday in June at Weyerhaeuser's campus in Federal Way.

We will start the new year with our first general meeting on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington. The program feature is a roundtable session on **repotting**, led by members of the Boon Manakitivipart study group including Ken Wassum, Linda Breeden, Doug Bradley, and Tom Knoblauch. We also plan to show a video of Boon repotting his lodgepole pine. Now is the time of year for repotting – don't miss this fantastic opportunity!

The first big event of 2010 is the **Northwest Flower and Garden Show** ([www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com)) being held in Seattle at the Convention Center February 3-7. The exhibit last year resulted in rave reviews! We are looking for volunteers who can help out in a variety of ways, and it's a great way to save on admission. Please contact either Don Guilliams at [guillie@comcast.net](mailto:guillie@comcast.net) or Edd Kuehn at (206) 782-0841.

Read on for more information on upcoming meetings, future events, and more. Also, be sure to reference our website at [www.psba.us](http://www.psba.us) for the names and resources within our organization who can help you with questions, advice, research, and techniques as well as for references to experts in the field of bonsai.

Your comments are always welcome. Help us to be the valuable forum for bonsai we are all looking for. Let us know what kinds of programs/events you would like to see PSBA support, what information you look for on our website and in our newsletter, and what subjects you especially would like to have available in demos or workshops.

Reminder: now is the time to ensure your *membership dues* are paid for 2010. Our fiscal year is the calendar year – membership is updated January 1, and if unpaid by the February meeting all membership privileges will be suspended. We want to include all corrections and currently paid member information in the 2010 membership roster as well, so we can stay in touch with each other.

See you in February,  
Grant

## Now Is The Time...

By Glenn Gardner

Now that winter is nearly passed, it is time to begin preparing for the summer to come. Pruning, repotting, and clean up is the order of the day. Repotting has been discussed very thoroughly and involves so many exactly right soil formulas that it gets to be a major endeavor to explain other than to say that whatever soil is used, the basic ideas of root pruning and after care remain pretty standard. There are so many "exactly right soils" that it all boils down to "what works for me in the micro environment of my collection". Bear in mind, many of the exotic soils available on the market are sterile and a sophisticated and regular application of a balanced fertilizer is required to maintain the vigor of the plant.

This matter of soils is actually interesting. When I first started in bonsai, the buzz word was "decomposed granite" or "DG", which was collected from the mountains. Everybody wanted DG and as in Matsutaki mushrooms, the location of personal DG mines was very secret. I still have some of my pines in DG for no other reason than it provides good drainage without breaking down into a clay-like material that plugs the drain holes as happens with the red lava grit. A mixture of DG and pulverized pine or fir bark along with a bit of charcoal and chelated iron is a good mixture for pines and other plants that require good drainage.

Then the imported soils, Akadama and Kanuma, became popular for awhile. My concern with these soils was that they seemed to be pellets of clay and we all know that clay has electrical charges that actually attract water molecules. The bond between clay and water resembles the attraction between two poles of a magnet and is a difficult bond for the roots to break. Much of the water in the clay bearing soils is therefore unavailable to the roots of plants. I have no knowledge of the latest imported soils other than they are quite expensive compared to mixes that can be formulated from locally available materials.

Personally, I use the soil mix sold by Bonsai Northwest with slight modifications that I feel are necessary for the particular plant and the micro environment of its home. Even that soil changes from time to time according to the recommendation of the provider, but basically it is grit and compost. I sift out the fine particles for plants requiring good drainage using a 1/8 inch screen which yields a coarser mix. The sum of it all is that "whatever works best for me" is all that is required to successfully grow bonsai.

Plan to participate in the upcoming bonsai exhibits either by displaying your bonsai, being a docent, or helping to set up and take down the exhibit. There is always plenty to do and sometimes too few people willing to do it.

Happy days with your bonsai!

## John Thompson Workshop

John Thompson from San Jose, California, will present a workshop for eight members on Monday, March 22nd from 10 am to 1 pm. The cost is \$40 (we need 8 participants) and must be paid in advance. There will be a sign up sheet at the February 22nd meeting and your money can be paid then. You can bring your own tree for help with design or you can bring a tree you want to do grafting on. John's demo at the PSBA meeting later that evening will be a demo on propagation and will feature several types of grafting methods. Look for more information on John Thompson in the March newsletter.

## Michael Hagedorn Workshop

PSBA will offer a workshop with Michael Hagedorn on Monday April 26th also at Bonsai Northwest from 10 am to 1 pm. Again the price will be \$40 and needs to be paid prior to that date. We need 8 participants.

## Annual Sale at Bonsai Northwest

Sharon and John Muth have announced that Bonsai Northwest will hold its annual pot and tool sale Wednesday, February 24th through Sunday, February 28th. Plan now to find the pots and tools you're always looking for come spring repotting time.

## Northwest Flower & Garden Show

PSBA will again be partnering with Tony Fajarillo at the Seattle Flower & Garden Show to be held at the Seattle Convention Center from February 3rd through February 7th. Included in the garden display will be several Yamadori bonsai trees provided by PSBA members. We also will provide docents for the event. Anyone interested in volunteering to serve as a docent can contact Edd Kuehn at 206-782-0841.

# Puget Sound Bonsai Association

Puget Sound Bonsai Association  
P.O. Box 15437  
Seattle, Washington  
98115-0437  
Phone: 253-851-9636  
psba.us

The PSBA News Clippings  
Is published nine times each year by the  
Puget Sound Bonsai Association: P.O.  
Box 15437, Seattle, WA 98115-0437.  
The newsletter is published in order to  
share general information about bonsai  
techniques, events, and other items of  
interest to members. It is provided free of  
charge to our members. Hard copies are  
mailed once or twice a year to all  
members. Members with e-mail addresses  
will get all others via e-mail. Members  
without e-mail may pick up hard copies at  
meetings. If you are not receiving e-mail  
copies, please contact Carol Sangster at  
csangster@chubb.com.

Editor: Morgia Belcher 253.851.9636 or  
morgia@centurytel.net  
Assistant Editor: Shaun Leibfried  
Production Editor: Jana Loyd  
Mailing Labels: Carol Sangster  
(csangster@chubb.com)

Questions about the publication should be  
directed to the editor. Permission to  
reprint articles is granted to other bonsai  
clubs for use in their publications, except  
where expressly prohibited or noted  
herein.



News Clippings  
P.O. Box 15437  
Seattle, WA 98115-0437

February 3-7	Flower & Garden Show Seattle Convention Center
Monday, February 22 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	PSBA meeting at Center for Urban Horticulture Boon's study group: repotting
Monday, March 22 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Workshop with John Thompson Bonsai Northwest, Tukwila
Monday, March 22 7 p.m.—10 p.m.	PSBA meeting at Center for Urban Horticulture Guest artist John Thompson
Monday, April 26 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Workshop with Michael Hagedorn Bonsai Northwest, Tukwila
Monday, April 26 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	PSBA meeting at Center for Urban Horticulture Guest artist Michael Hagedorn
Sunday, May 16 10 a.m.—5 p.m.	Spring Show Japanese Gardens, Seattle Arboretum

